

REMARKS

Claims 8-24 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 8, 16, and 22-24 have been amended as shown on pp. 2-5 of the Reply.

Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during a telephone conversation on April 22, 2008, between Examiner William H. Wood and Applicants' representative Bradley D. Spitz. The rejection of claims 8-24 under 35 U.S.C. §101 and proposed amendments to independent claims 8, 16, and 22 relating thereto were discussed.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 8-24 Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 8-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed toward non-statutory subject matter. Independent claims 8 and 16 have been amended to recite computer-executable files stored on a computer-readable storage medium, thereby defining the necessary structural and/or functional relationships between the claimed systems and a computer to permit the functionality of the respective systems to be realized as required by 35 U.S.C. §101 and MPEP 2106.01. Further, independent claim 22 has been amended to recite *a computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable code for implementing a business process scheduler*, thereby incorporating the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or manufacture under 35 U.S.C. §101 and MPEP 2106.01. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP102US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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